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ANNUAL  
REPORT

*of the*

*Medical Officer of Health*  
for the Year 1949

*by*

W. J. BIRCHALL  
*M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,*



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# INTRODUCTION

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ellesmere Port Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1949.

The local statistics relating to health, continue on the whole to be satisfactory, and compare favourably with the National figures.

A summary of the main items is given below, together with those for England and Wales and the smaller towns.

The Crude Death Rate is 7.12 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 8.19 in 1948. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7, and for 148 smaller towns the rate is 12.5.

The Birth Rate is 21.50 per 1,000 population; in 1948 the rate was 21.54. The Rate for England and Wales is 16.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 31.2 per 1,000 live births, compared with 33.08 for 1948. The Rate for England and Wales is 32.0, and for 148 smaller towns 30.0.

There were again no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth.

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred.

With the exception of Diphtheria, the common Infectious Diseases showed an increase compared with the previous year. This was especially the case with measles 340 (83), and Whooping Cough 129 (54). Scarlet Fever cases were 50 (41).

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified; there were 5 in 1948.

Thirty new cases of Tuberculosis were recorded (24 in 1948).

Among the less common Infectious Diseases there were 25 cases of Dysentery, 2 cases of Typhoid, and 1 case of Polioencephalitis. Twenty-three of the Dysentery cases were confined to the children and staff of the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery. They were of mild (Sonne) type, and made good though protracted recovery.

The two cases notified as Typhoid occurred in the same family. The first case was active and was a young woman. The second case, a carrier, apparently in good health, occurred in the grandmother, and was discovered on investigation of the first case. The young woman made a good recovery in hospital. The older woman was confined to hospital for several months before it was possible to eradicate the infection.

In the Sanitary Department, Housing and Overcrowding conditions continue to be a major problem, with no improvement at the close of the year in respect of overcrowding.

The former Military Camps in the District are still in full use as units for human habitation, with quite a waiting list of applicants for this type of dwelling, many of whom are living in overcrowded conditions. Whilst all these circumstances are fully appreciated, it is felt that these hutments should be dispensed with as soon as possible, as they fall so short of present housing standards.

Inspection of Foodstuffs and sampling of Milk and Ice Cream have been carried out during routine work. It will be noted in the section of the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector that of the 81 samples of Milk examined by the Bacteriologist for keeping quality, 60 were satisfactory and passed the prescribed test. It is pleasing to note that all 69 samples of Milk examined for B. Tuberculosis were returned negative. Of the 69 samples of Ice Cream and Lolly Ices obtained for Bacteriological examination 54 were considered satisfactory. These figures are quite favourable, and the system now in operation should be maintained so that the whole field of the food inspection service is kept properly controlled.

The standard of hygiene in food premises throughout the district is quite good, and it will be observed in the report that at the close of the year, food bye-laws are in course of being adopted relative to the handling, wrapping and delivery, and sale of food in the open air along the lines of the model issued by the Ministry of Food.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, transferred the supervision of milk production at the farms and inspection of cowsheds, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This is to be regretted as, without doubt, the standard of milk production and of construction of cowsheds was never better.

Included at the end of this Report is an extract from my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer, on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in the Ellesmere Port Division. It is thought such information may also be of interest to those members who are not members of the Ellesmere Port Divisional Health Committee.

In addition to other services, functions such as Maternity and Child Welfare, Day Nurseries, Immunisation, etc., which were formerly carried out by the Urban District Council as an autonomous authority, are described.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the support received from the members of the Public Health Committee, and the co-operation and assistance of the staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

# **Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1949.**

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The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton, Ince, Childer Thornton, Little Sutton and Hooton.

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### **Administrative Staff**

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

J. P. GODDARD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

R. K. FRANCIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Pupil Inspector : D. E. JONES.

Shorthand-Typist : Mrs. R. M. HARRIS.

Clerk-Typist : Miss B. PARKER.

# Statistics and Social Conditions

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Population ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	31,290
Area (acres) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area ... ... ...	8,059
Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	£207,361
Sum represented by the Penny Rate ... ... ...	£820

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Year	Population	Pop.	Natural Increase per 1,000	Year	Population	Pop.	Natural Increase Per 1,000
			per 1,000				Per 1,000
1934	24,730	11.6		1942	27,950	11.16	
1935	24,840	9.7		1943	27,560	15.5	
1936	25,100	10.9		1944	27,220	13.44	
1937	25,610	8.9		1945	27,160	10.9	
1938	26,030	7.03		1946	28,740	12.49	
1939	26,920	11.75		1947	29,670	15.9	
1940	28,160	9.8		1948	30,860	13.3	
1941	28,530	9.25		1949	31,290	10.88	

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) 1934—1949 (England and Wales).

Year	Population	Per 1,000	Year	Population	Per 1,000
		Population			Population
1934	... ... ... ... ...	3.0	1942	... ... ... ...	4.2
1935	... ... ... ... ...	2.9	1943	... ... ... ...	4.4
1936	... ... ... ... ...	2.7	1944	... ... ... ...	6.0
1937	... ... ... ... ...	2.7	1945	... ... ... ...	4.7
1938	... ... ... ... ...	3.5	1946	... ... ... ...	7.6
1939	... ... ... ... ...	2.9	1947	... ... ... ...	8.5
1940	... ... ... ... ...	0.3	1948	... ... ... ...	7.1
1941	... ... ... ... ...	1.3	1949	... ... ... ...	5.0

# Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1949

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General).

## LIVE BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	315	336	651
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	8	14	22
						323	350	673

Birth Rate 21.50 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1949) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000) — 18.0.

## STILL BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	11	13	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
						11	14	25

Still birth rate 35.81 per 1,000 total live and still births or .79 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1934—1948 was 564.

## TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES, 1934—1948.

1934	518	20.9	1942	538	19.96
1935	470	18.9	1943	603	21.87
1936	503	20.04	1944	611	22.44
1937	483	18.86	1945	555	20.43
1938	476	18.28	1946	635	22.09
1939	543	20.25	1947	730	24.60
1940	566	20.09	1948	665	21.54
1941	565	19.80			

Birth Rate England and Wales 1949 ... ... ... ... ... 16.7

Birth Rate England and Wales 1948 ... ... ... ... ... 17.9

Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1948 ... ... ... 16.8

### DEATHS

Males ... 133 Females ... 90 Total ... 223

Death Rate 7.12. Corrected Death Rate 9.54. Comparability factor 1.34.

**TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CRUDE  
DEATH RATES, 1934—1948.**

Year	Number	Death Rate	Year	Number	Death Rate
1934	231	9.3	1942	246	8.79
1935	229	9.2	1943	276	10.01
1936	227	9.0	1944	245	9.00
1937	254	9.91	1945	252	9.28
1938	293	11.26	1946	276	9.60
1939	229	8.50	1947	257	8.66
1940	291	10.3	1948	253	8.19
1941	301	10.5			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1934—1948 was 257.

Death Rate — England and Wales 11.7 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate — 148 smaller towns 12.5 per 1,000 population.

### DEATHS FROM PUEPERAL CAUSES

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	Rate per 1,000 live Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	Nil	—	—

The figures for England and Wales were:—

					Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0.11
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	0.71
					0.82

**DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER  
ONE YEAR OF AGE**

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ... ... ...	21	31.20
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	20	30.72
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	45.45

The figures for England and Wales were :—

All England and Wales... ... ... ... ...	32.0
148 smaller towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)... ... ... ...	30.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ... ... ... ... ...	37.0
London (Administrative County) ... ... ... ...	29.0

**TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1934—1948**

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year	Rate per 1,000 Births
1934 ... ... ... ... ...	48.26	1942 ... ... ... ...	35.8
1935 ... ... ... ... ...	44.6	1943 ... ... ... ...	71.3
1936 ... ... ... ... ...	51.7	1944 ... ... ... ...	34.3
1937 ... ... ... ... ...	66.2	1945 ... ... ... ...	46.85
1938 ... ... ... ... ...	48.3	1946 ... ... ... ...	55.11
1939 ... ... ... ... ...	58.93	1947 ... ... ... ...	56.16
1940 ... ... ... ... ...	63.3	1948 ... ... ... ...	33.08
1941 ... ... ... ... ...	72.9		
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ...	...		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ...	...	...	3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ...	...	...	35

## Causes of Deaths

All Causes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	8	2	10
7. Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	1	1	2
8. Syphilis .....	2	—	2
9. Influenza .....	—	1	1
10. Measles .....	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis .....	—	—	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis .....	—	—	—
13. Cancer of the Mouth, Oesophagus, Uterus .....	3	1	4
14. Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5
15. Cancer of the Breast .....	—	4	4
16. Other forms of Cancer .....	15	7	22
17. Diabetes .....	—	2	2
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions .....	13	12	25
19. Heart Disease .....	24	22	46
20. Other Circulatory diseases .....	9	5	14
21. Bronchitis .....	7	3	10
22. Pneumonia .....	6	3	9
23. Other Respiratory diseases .....	2	—	2
24. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	3	—	3
26. Appendicitis .....	—	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases .....	2	4	6
28. Nephritis .....	3	2	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis ...	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes .....	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth .....	6	2	8
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc. ....	4	2	6
33. Suicide .....	2	1	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents .....	5	—	5
35. Other Violent Causes .....	4	5	9
36. All Other Causes .....	10	6	16
	133	90	223

# **General Provision of Health Services in the Area**

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*The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.*

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The following services are available :—

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Chemical analysis of water and Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are carried out at regular intervals. Bacteriological examinations of throat swabs for suspected cases of Diphtheria, and the necessary investigation of any serious Infectious Disease epidemic are undertaken according to requirements.

The Public Health Laboratory, which has been organised under the National Health Service Act, 1946, under the direction of the Medical Research Council, and has local laboratories, now undertakes (since 5th July, 1948) free bacteriological examinations of milk, water and other specimens for Local Authorities. The Laboratory for this area is situated at Birkenhead.

Food and drugs administration is carried out by the County Council, and their Officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 3.

There were 3 throat swabs, all of which were negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 2. Of this total 1 was returned positive and 1 negative.

## **AMBULANCE FACILITIES**

Since the 5th July, 1948, reorganisation of Ambulance services has taken place in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act. The Local Health Authority (Cheshire County Council) is now responsible for these services and has a scheme of Divisional administration by local Committees throughout the County. These Committees are responsible to the County.

Council for running the local Ambulance Services. There is now no special provision for special Ambulances for the removal of Infectious cases to hospital with the exception of Smallpox.

### *NURSING IN THE HOME*

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Reorganisation of the District Nursing Service has also occurred under the Act. The Local Health Authority has now taken over these services from the District Nursing Association, though the service continues to operate in much the same way as previously.

### *CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.*

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These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port, and at the Railway Inn, Little Sutton.

There is urgent need for better clinic facilities at Little Sutton and it is hoped that improvements will not be long delayed.

Orthopaedic Aural, Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic, with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held in the Welfare Centre.

### *HOSPITALS.*

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The Clatterbridge General Hospital serves the Urban District for most purposes.

**Maternity:** Provision is made for maternity accommodation in the Clatterbridge General Hospital, where the patients are under the supervision of the consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-natal clinics. In this block there are 34 beds.

In addition there is a separate Maternity Home at Heswall.

The services of the consultant Obstetrician are available at the Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics held twice weekly at the Welfare Centre, and at any time if required in an emergency by a general practitioner in the district.

**Children:** Facilities exist for convalescent treatment of children needing such and seen by the Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre. When such cases occur every endeavour is made to get them accommodated in the West Kirby Convalescent Home.

**Seabies:** No cases were reported during the year.

**Fevers:** The Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge (transferred to the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948) receives infectious fever cases from the Urban District.

The accommodation provided is as follows:—

24 beds for Diphtheria.

26 beds for Scarlet Fever.

12 cubicles for Isolation, 14 beds.

2 small wards of 12 beds each, 24 beds to be used as required.

**Chester and District Hospital Management Committee—Ellesmere Port Hospital:** On the 5th July, 1948, the Management of this Hospital was transferred from a Board of Management to the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee who are responsible under the National Health Service Act.

This hospital contains 40 beds and 10 cots, and continues to offer in-patient treatment for both medical and surgical cases, this being in addition to the usual out-patients' clinics.

### MIDWIVES.

There are eight midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1938—1949 is shown in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1938	13.7	9.08	0.15	0.26		
1939	3.30	2.08	0.14	0.33		
1940	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	0.07
1943	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	0.62	0.47
1945	9.46	0.73	0.00	0.22	10.19	0.00
1946	3.47	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.38	0.24
1947	1.85	0.30	0.03	0.20	5.12	0.20
1948	1.32	0.16	0.00	0.20	2.68	1.74
1949	1.60	0.00	0.06	0.09	10.87	4.12

The corresponding notification rates for England and Wales are as follows :—

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1938	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40		
1939	1.89	1.14	0.04	0.34		
1940	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49
1945	1.89	0.46	0.02	0.25	11.67	1.64
1946	1.38	0.28	0.03	0.22	3.92	2.28
1947	1.37	0.13	0.02	0.19	9.41	2.22
1948	1.73	0.08	0.02	0.21	9.34	3.42
1949	1.63	0.04	0.02	0.19	8.95	2.39

There were no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1949. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births (live and still) is 6.31.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Disease.	Total Cases	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Notified.		
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	50	44	—
Pneumonia ... ... ...	32	11	1
Whooping Cough ... ...	129	3	—
Erysipelas ... ... ...	3	—	—
Dysentery ... ... ...	25	—	—
Typhoid Fever ... ... ...	2	2	—
Measles ... ... ...	340	4	—
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	1	1	—
	582	65	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 years ...	1	4	—	2	2	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	5	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—55 years ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 Upwards ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	11	14	2	3	7	5	—	—

**TABLE I.—AGE GROUPS SHOWING THE DISEASED AND UNDISEASED CASES AND DEATHS, 1919.**

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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## WATER

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply the entire area and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses with the following exceptions: a group of sixteen cottages in Stanney Lane which are supplied by three standpipes, a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one standpipe, a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one standpipe, a cottage in Great Stanney and a house in Little Sutton which obtains its supply from a private well. A number of houses in the Parish of Ince also obtain water through standpipes, the remainder having a piped supply laid into the houses.

The water throughout the district is in a piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. At the Hooton station the water goes through the softening process, but at Prenton and Mouldsworth softening operations have been temporarily suspended.

During the year 86 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 16 samples for Chemical Analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on the 29th December, 1949, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 86 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Hooton on the 17th October, 1949, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other 16 samples for chemical analysis made during the year, with the exception of the fact that all the samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton Pumping Stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

# Bacteriological Report on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Received 29/12/49 from the West Cheshire Water Board.

Labelled : Mouldsworth Pumping Station. Flamed tap in Softening House. Raw Water.

Date : 28/12/49. 12.45 p.m. Taken by : C. Hardman.

Witness : S. Crawford. Signed : C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day ... ... ... ... ...	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days ... ... ... ... ...	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days ... ... ... ... ...	0.
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test) ... ... ... ...	Absent from 100 ml.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli ... ... ... ...	Absent from 100 ml.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sprorogenes) ... ... ... ...	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) : Gordon Miles.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

# Chemical Analysis on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Analysis of a sample of water received on the 18/10/49, from the West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station. Flamed tap in Softening House, after chlorination, filtration and softening.

Taken by C. Hardman. Witness : T. T. Lunt.

Date : 17/10/49; 11-15 a.m.

Chemical results in part per million.					
Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil. Odour: Nil.
Reaction ph.	...	...	...	...	7.4. Free Carbon Dioxide — 12.
Electric Conductivity at 200 C	...	...	690.		
Total Solids, 1800 C	...	...	...	460.	
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	88.	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	1.0	Nitrates less than 0.01.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	...	0	( — Grains per Gallon).
Temporary	...	...	...	30	( — Grains per Gallon).
Total	...	...	...	30	( — Grains per Gallon).
Metals	...	...	...	...	Iron: less than 0.03. Manganese: less than 0.03. Other Metals absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000 Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000 Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 270 C.	...	...	0.00.		

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and free from metals, apart from negligible traces of iron and manganese. The water is very soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Subject to blending with harder supplies, these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) Gordon Miles.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board.

(1) *Particulars of any new sources of Public Supply.*

New Borehole in commission at Hooton since June, 1948, and about 850,000 gallons per day obtained since by a temporary pumping plant. A further adjacent similar borehole has just been completed and will shortly be put into permanent supply.

(2) *Improvements to existing sources of public supply.*

Chemical and Bacteriological Reports, throughout the year, have been of satisfactory order, and distribution has been maintained throughout the District.

(3) *Any important extension of mains.*

Housing sites within the area of administration of your Council, comprising the following estates :—

- (a) Wolverham.
- (b) Stanney.
- (c) Rivacre.
- (d) Orchard Farm.

(4) *Have pipe supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity?*

There has been, in some cases there still exists, a large demand for metered trade supplies which has in some cases caused diminution in pressures, but generally speaking, relative to the area with which you are concerned, the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

(5) *Is any part of the District in need of an improved water supply?*

Pressure fluctuations were experienced for some time in a small section of the Whitby area, but since the installation of a new connection near the Sportsman's Arms, no further reports have been received of pressure fluctuations, and concerning the water supply throughout Ellesmere Port in general, there have not been any complaints received, excepting occasional complaints regarding the hardness of the water.

**LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE,  
(so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.**

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Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914.							
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4 and 6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1909
Public Libraries Act, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1907
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1911
Public Health Act, 1925 (Part 2, except Section 20)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1937

Subject matter.	Authority by whom made.	Area in which in force.	Date.	Date of Confirmation.
Libraries	... ... ... ...	Ellesmere Port U.D.C. ... ... Whole Urban Area ... ditto	30/11/1936 25/1/1937	13/1/1937 31/5/1937
Pleasure Grounds	... ...	Ellesmere Port & Whitby U.D.C. Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney ...	26/10/1925	12/1/1926
New Streets and Buildings	...			
Tents, Vans and similar Structures	... ... ...	Wirral Rural District Council Parishes of Great Sutton, Little Sutton and Hoofon ... ditto	19/2/1923 19/11/1923	5/4/1923 15/1/1925
*Omnibuses	... ...	ditto	17/11/1924	8/1/1925
Offensive Trades	... ...	ditto	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Buildings	... ...	ditto		
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cess-pools	... ...	Chester Rural District Council Parish of Ince ... ditto	28/2/1923	28/4/1924
Building Byelaws	... ...	Ellesmere Port U.D.C. ... Whole Urban Area ...	29/1/1940	11/7/1940

\* These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930.  
which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.

# Sanitary Inspection of the Area

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Result of Service of Notices  
and Number Served

Nature of Inspections	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	Remaining in hand
Dwelling Houses (General) ... ... ...	269	269	48	251	18
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936) ...	3	3	—	2	1
Revisits to work in progress ... ...	1688	—	—	—	—
Schools ... ... ...	3	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Caravans ...	23	10	—	10	—
Back Yards ... ... ...	353	353	12	353	—
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, etc. ...	47	—	—	—	—
Drainage Inspections ... ... ...	96	10	—	10	—
Drainage Tests ... ... ...	7	—	—	—	—
Ditches and Watercourses ... ... ...	15	3	—	3	—
Offensive Accumulations ... ... ...	9	2	—	2	—
Keeping of Animals ... ... ...	3	—	—	—	—
Food Premises ... ... ...	644	28	—	27	1
Factories Mobile ... ... ...	44	5	—	4	1
Factories Non-mobile ... ... ...	4	—	—	—	—
Piggeries ... ... ...	20	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ... ... ...	20	7	—	7	—
Dairies, Milkshops, and Purveyors' Premises	69	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observation ... ... ...	1	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats ... ... ...	25	—	7	3	4
Infectious Diseases :					
Enquiries ... ... ...	120	—	—	—	—
Other Visits ... ... ...	50	—	—	—	—
Disinfections ... ... ...	130	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises :					
Inspections ... ... ...	86	50	—	50	—
Disinfestations ... ... ...	50	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations ... ... ...	72	72	—	72	—
Samples Submitted for Bacteriological Examination ... ... ...	194	11	—	11	—
Milk ... ... ...	95	—	—	—	—
Water ... ... ...	16	—	—	—	—
Ice-Cream ... ... ...	69	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts ... ... ...	36	—	—	—	—
Mortuary ... ... ...	435	—	—	—	—
References to Other Departments ... ...	22	—	—	—	—
Interviews ... ... ...	205	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal Site ... ... ...	79	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding :					
Enquiries ... ... ...	119	20	—	19	1
Other Visits ... ... ...	567	13	—	13	—
TOTALS ... ...	5693	856	57	837	26

# **Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936**

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Housing conditions, generally, still cause concern to the Department, and in connection with overcrowding, 205 complaints were received during the period under review. Details of each complaint were carefully examined and reported upon to the Housing (Lettings) Committee for their consideration, together with a report and recommendation from the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The Council, in the light of the third report issued during the year, of the Housing Management Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, relative to "Selection of Tenants" considered the system of lettings of Council Houses, and a new scheme was put into operation very much on the lines indicated in the aforementioned report. "Housing Need" should always be the predominating factor of every case selected whilst so much overcrowding remains.

The position in respect of this complex problem shewed no improvement during the year, due to the insufficient number of houses completed.

A great amount of housing repair work has been completed during the year to domestic property upon the service of sanitary notices, in spite of the various difficulties encountered.

It will be noted that most of the work carried out is done so by informal action, nevertheless, in fourteen instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council to the owners concerned in respect of non-compliance with Abatement Notices served upon them, prior to any legal proceedings being instituted. Of these Notices, six remained in hand at the close of the year.

Certificates have again been issued to local builders in support of their application for controlled materials, in order to enable them to carry out essential repairs to property in this district.

Detailed reports were presented to the Health Committee in respect of the general conditions of three dwellings. In two

instances, undertakings were received from the Owners that the premises would not again be used for human habitation unless and until they had been rendered so fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. In the remaining case, an undertaking was received that as soon as alternative accommodation could be provided, either by the Local Authority or the tenant, the premises would not again be used for human habitation. All three undertakings were accepted by the Council.

A case pending from the previous year was finally settled when the Owner had agreed to render the premises fit for human habitation and such undertaking was accepted.

A contravention of Section 154 Public Health Act, 1936, was reported upon and legal proceedings instituted relative to the exchange of toys for rags to children. One defendant was fined £2., and two defendants 10/- each.

During the year under review, 399 dust bins were supplied and delivered to premises, including Council Houses, on receiving payment from the Owners. Several Owners of domestic property still continue to avail themselves of this service, and it is hoped it will be carried on as a permanent feature. Time is saved by this method and the service of notices is eliminated.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises, 565 verbal complaints were given at the office.

#### CAMPS.

The three former military camps still continue to be occupied for human habitation. Each hut has been converted to comprise three and two bedrooms, with kitchen and scullery combined.

Whilst it is greatly appreciated that this accommodation has provided a type of home for the occupants in these abnormal times, they are, nevertheless, sub-standard, and should not be used any longer than is necessary. In fact, it is earnestly hoped that it may soon be possible to have the huts demolished as each occupier is re-housed.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a) Council Houses .....	12
(b) Other Houses .....	13
(c) Number Disinfested .....	25
(d) Total visits .....	35

The number of Council houses treated shew an increase over the previous year's figure. There still remains a number of individual cases where the standard of cleanliness is unsatisfactory.

All infested houses were treated with liquid and powder form of D.D.T., with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have wood-work removed in the bedrooms to facilitate disinfestation, due to the effective delayed action of D.D.T.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, through the staff of the Sanitary Department.

#### *DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.*

There are two sewage disposal works in the district. The works at Little Stanney were newly-erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside, Pontoon, known as the Town Works, were re-constructed and designed for a population of 7,000. A small area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

A scheme has been prepared by Mr. A. H. S. Waters, M.Inst. C.E., the Council's consulting Engineer, in consultation with the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, to provide sewers and sewage disposal works for the Parish of Ince. This is receiving the attention of the Council, together with that of the Ministry of Health.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the district during the year :—

Foul water sewers .....	2,363 lineal yards
Surface water sewers .....	2,400 lineal yards.

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Total: 4,763 lineal yards.

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## *RIVERS AND STREAMS.*

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered by oil works along its entire length in this district. It is tide-locked where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

A great deal of pollution is evident due to trade effluences from neighbouring industries.

## *CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.*

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not available, some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

A survey was carried out by the department during the year in the Parish of Ince relative to a proposal by the Council to undertake the emptying of pail closets. A service is now in operation under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department for their regular cleansing.

## *SWIMMING POOL.*

The Rivacre Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

New chlorination plant was installed during the year and this has proved to be highly satisfactory.

Samples of water are taken at regular intervals.

## *SCHOOLS.*

There are three Council Secondary Schools, nine Council Primary Schools and four Denominational Schools in the district.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on occurrence of cases of Infectious Disease in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the schools are thoroughly disinfected.

#### *CANAL BOATS.*

25 boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 52 adults and 32 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 37 adults and 28 children.

7 Statutory Notices were served and 4 remained in hand at the close of the year.

H.1 COTTONRIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

Premises	M/c Line (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Notices Written (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)	M/c Line (6)	Occupiers Prosecuted (7)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities ... ... ...	1	14	—	—	—	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ... ...	2	95	44	5	—	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ... ...	22	23	4	—	—	3	—
<b>TOTAL ... ...</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>		

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c Line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c Line (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	1	1	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	1	—	—	1	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	4	3	—	2	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	12	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	6	5	—	—	60

# HOUSING

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## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	272
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,688
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	3
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	15
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	3
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	89

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	51
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## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice .....	Nil
(a) By Owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority .....	Nil

B.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	48
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice :—	
(a)	By Owners .....	41
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c)	Remaining in hand .....	7
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .....	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders .....	Nil
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, but tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

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## MILK SUPPLY.

With the coming into operation on the 1st October, 1949, of the Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944, the supervision of milk production at the farms and inspection of cowsheds passed to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. County District Authorities remain in control on the retail side with the supervision of dairies and distributors of milk.

There are 16 registered dairies and 14 distributors in the district. In addition, 14 distributors bring milk into the district from outside and there are two registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

With the change in legislation governing milk production, a rota system has been put into operation whereby samples of milk are taken at regular intervals from registered premises dealing with distributors and farmers retailing milk.

95 samples of milk were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

Of the 69 samples examined for Tuberculosis all were reported negative. 81 samples were examined on the standard of cleanliness and the keeping quality of the milk and 60 or 74 per cent. were satisfactory.

46 Dealers' licences and 3 Supplementary licencees were issued by the Local Authority under The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

A large number of retailers obtain their supplies already bottled, which obviates a further handling of the milk and is considered as being a progressive outlook.

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food Premises: 16 applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review.

There are 84 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Careful attention has been paid to food premises and whilst in 1941, leaflets, cards and posters relative to personal cleanliness and hygiene were distributed to all food traders, the importance of this matter is still being stressed at every inspection.

In October, 1949, a Circular was issued by the Ministry of Food, together with copies of Model Byelaws in connection with the making by Local Authorities of byelaws within the provision of the Food & Drugs Act, relative to handling, wrapping and delivery, and sale of food in the open air. These were receiving active attention by the Council at the close of the year. It is felt, however, that whilst they are referred to as Series one, the Model Byelaws could well have contained requirements of a much stronger character.

In connection with ice-cream there are two premises in the district manufacturing by the hot mix method. Conditions at both places are very satisfactory.

69 samples of ice-cream and lolly ices were taken for examination from all dealers and manufacturers during the year. Sampling for ice-cream is carried out on a rota system as for milk sampling, whereby samples are obtained from every dealer.

Of the 69 samples obtained, 11 were in respect of lolly ices, 10 of which were satisfactory. The remaining 58 samples of ice-cream are classified as follows in accordance with the provisional grading issued by the Ministry of Health :—

Grade 1 — 30, Grade 2 — 14, Grade 3 — 10, Grade 4 — 4.

In respect of the samples placed in Grade 4, appropriate action was taken by the Department.

The code of practice as was envisaged in the previous year's report is now in operation affecting the sale of ice-cream at premises and from vehicles throughout the district. Close co-operation with the trade has been maintained.

Some attention has also been given in respect of obtaining samples of "washing up" water for bacteriological examination from snack bars and cafes. 18 samples were obtained, of which 13 were not satisfactory.

It is quite apparent that this branch of our work requires to be more thoroughly dealt with and an endeavour will be made during the coming year with this end in view.

69 special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the owner and the following foods were rejected :—

77 tins Meat.	12 tins Soup.	13 tins Beans.
395 tins Milk.	92 tins Vegetables.	3 tins Jam.
26 tins Fruit.	71 tins Fish.	7 tins Pudding.

— Blown, damaged and leaky tins.

54 stone Fish.	577lb. Beef & Offal.	15 Packets Malted Milk.
39 Eggs.	7½lb. Lamb.	18½lb. Cooked Meat.
7 Packets Fat.	48 Packets Fruitella.	7 Packets Ryvita.
10 Packets Bisto.	6 Jars Bovril.	25 Jars Red Cabbage.
16 Jars Pickles.	1 Bottle Sauce.	

— Unfit for Human Consumption.

Total Weight (approximately) 16 cwt. 1 qtr. 13 lbs.

#### *RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.*

The Council still continued to operate delegated powers under the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1949. New legislation on the work was not brought into operation during the period of this report.

Co-operation from all occupiers of property, particularly industrial premises, has been maintained resulting in the work being carried out without friction. This is considered to be very satisfactory.

A free service is granted by the Council to occupiers of domestic property to clear any rat infestation.

Two rodent operatives are employed and they have again been fully occupied with this work.

3,416 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives with 360 poisoning campaigns. The total amount of "poison take", i.e. poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was Zinc Phosphide 29lbs. 4oz., Arsenic 2lbs. 8oz., Red Squill 4lb. 12oz. In addition, 25 treatments have been given with Cymag Gas.

A formula prepared by the Ministry for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide

and Arsenic are used shews that in respect of these two poisons used in campaigns, a total kill of 1,270 is arrived at for the year.

The number of bodies actually picked up were 621 rats and 414 mice.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry a test baiting of 10 per cent. of sewer manholes in the entire district were baited and "no takes" recorded in each instance. This was satisfactory and a certificate was issued by the Divisional Rodent Officer, exempting the Authority from undertaking any further action in the treatment of sewers during the financial year ending 31st March, 1950.

#### *SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.*

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

#### **LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE ELLESMORE PORT URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.**

## SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council had kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

### LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE ELLESmere PORT URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Article.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter ... ... ... ... ...	2	—
Cheese ... ... ... ... ...	2	—
Coffee ... ... ... ... ...	1	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt ... ...	1	—
Cascara... ... ... ... ...	1	—
Cooking Fat... ... ... ... ...	2	—
Chewing Gum ... ... ... ...	1	—
Ice Cream ... ... ... ...	3	—
Jam ... ... ... ... ...	2	—
Milks ... ... ... ... ...	48	2
Margarine ... ... ... ... ...	2	—
Milk — Condensed ... ... ...	2	—
Meat — Potted ... ... ...	1	—
Olive Oil ... ... ... ...	1	—
Poloney... ... ... ... ...	1	—
Rose Hip Syrup... ... ... ...	1	—
Rum ... ... ... ... ...	4	—
Sausage — Beef/Pork ... ...	8	5
Sweets ... ... ... ... ...	1	—
Saccharin Tablets ... ... ... ...	2	—
Whisky ... ... ... ... ...	3	—

## PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES NOT UP TO STANDARD.

No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk	5.8 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids.	No action as sample was certified as genuine but abnormal.
2.	Beef Sausage	65 per cent. deficient in meat.	Informal sample purchased at butcher's shop. See corresponding formal sample No. 5.
3.	Beef Sausage	12 per cent. deficient in meat.	Sample purchased at butcher's shop. Seller cautioned.
4.	Pork Sausage	Contains an excess of Sulphur dioxide preservative.	Informal sample purchased at butcher's shop. See corresponding formal sample No. 6.
5.	Beef Sausage	60 per cent. deficient in meat.	Formal sample corresponding to No. 2. Seller prosecuted and fined £5 together with £1.1s. costs.
6.	Beef Sausage	14 per cent. deficient in meat.	Formal sample corresponding to No. 4. Seller cautioned.
7.	Milk	3.5 per cent. deficient in non-fatty solids.	No action as sample was certified as genuine but abnormal.

# **Annual Report of the Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services of the Ellesmere Port Division for Year 1949**

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(This area includes Ellesmere Port Urban District, Hoole Urban District, Chester Rural District, Tarvin Rural District, estimated population 70,241)

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The year 1949 saw the establishment and development of the Personal Health Services under the various Sections which had been delegated to the Committee by the County Council, as Local Health Authority, on the 5th July, 1948.

Some of these, e.g., Section 22, dealing with the Care of Mothers and Young Children, were already well established, either directly under the County Council or under the autonomous local authorities who had administered them for a number of years, prior to 1948.

Further development under this Section has been sought, by opening additional Welfare Centres, mainly in the Rural Areas, and reviewing the future requirements of the Urban Areas.

Home Nursing, and Vaccination and Immunisation, were established Services which have been transferred to the County Council. In the case of the former, the Committee, whilst not responsible for the work of the District Nurses, is concerned with their accommodation and transport. This also applies to Midwives and Health Visitors. The lady members of the Welfare Sub-Committee have been most helpful in several instances where accommodation, furnishings, and transport of Nurses were involved.

Vaccination and Immunisation have continued as Services performed by General Practitioners, either individually on their own patients or in groups at Clinics.

Vaccination is now on a voluntary basis. Immunisation has always been voluntary, and now includes Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria.

Enthusiasm on the part of General Practitioners for the performance of these Services has not been encouraged by the absence of rates of remuneration for the work being agreed between the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health.

Ambulance Services have a greater scope under the new Health Scheme, as they include, in a free Service, car and rail transport. Their development has suffered the handicap of short supplies of new ambulances and cars. Most of the vehicles taken over by the County Council were old pre-war types which would have been replaced but for the war. This was the case in this Division, where two ancient and unreliable vehicles were called upon to do increased work.

These Services have endeavoured to cope with increasing demands under severe handicaps; and until sufficient new vehicles are available the work will continue to operate under difficulty.

The Southern part of the Division is covered by an agreement with the Chester Corporation for the use of the City Ambulances. This arrangement has been most helpful. There has been a progressive demand during the year for transport, and the Sitting Case Car Service has been supplemented by the use of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and private car hire firms.

With the reorganisation of the Tuberculosis Services, a start was made on a detailed investigation of all patients on the Tuberculosis Register, and any new cases that were notified. This considerable task has been undertaken with the help and co-operation of the County Health Visitors. Detailed information on the needs of these patients, with regard to social conditions, housing, etc., was collected and passed on to the Tuberculosis Officer. Action was taken where overcrowding, housing needs, domestic help and nursing requisites required attention; and the ground was prepared for the early formation of an After-Care Committee.

Domestic Help was previously a Service operated mainly in Urban Districts by Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities, to provide the necessary help in confinement cases at the patient's home. This Service has now been expanded to include all cases of illness, and applications have steadily increased during the

year. The Service is provided mainly from a Register of part-time workers, although two full-time Domestic Helps continue to be employed in the Ellesmere Port Urban District. This Service appears to be a necessary and effective aid in those homes where illness or disability leaves nobody to carry on the essential domestic services of the household.

The Health Services available have been freely published in the Press, and by notices at Clinics, Doctors' Surgeries, Post Offices, Public Libraries, and Police Stations, throughout the Division.

Individual notices relating to Vaccination and Immunisation have been sent to parents of new-born babies.

Health Visitors, Midwives and District Nurses, and other Officers have brought the Health Service to the notice of members of the Public by their personal contacts in their work and otherwise.

It is felt that individual contacts produce better results than organised propaganda through the medium of leaflets and posters.

# Ellesmere Port Divisional Health Committee.

## Report for Year Ended 31st December, 1949.

### N.H.S. ACT, 1946 (SECTION 22) — CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

#### A—MOTHERS' CLINICS:—

	New Cases	Total Attendances
Ante-Natal ... ... ... ... ... ...	521	2815
Post-Natal ... ... ... ... ... ...	84	105
 Dental :—		
Pre-Natal ... ... ... ... ... ...	18	42
Nursing Mothers ... ... ... ... ...	10	26
Dentures supplied... ... ... ... ...	9	

#### B—YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS:—

	New Cases	Total Attendances
(1) Infant Welfare—		
To 1 year ... ... ... ...	966	10,724
1 — 5 years ... ... ... ...	213	3,162
 (2) Specialist—		
Ophthalmic ... ... ... ...	32	88
Dental Treatment (Under 5) ... ...	22	31
E.N.T. (Under 5) ... ... ...	57	63
 (3) Day Nurseries—		
	Daily Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
Aged 0—2 years ... ... ... ...	15	3,663
Aged 2—5 years ... ... ... ...	57	14,231

Details of figures given below (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are shown hereunder :—

#### Eye Clinics :—

	New Cases	Total Attendances
Hoole ... ... ... ...	12	36
Ellesmere Port ... ... ... ...	20	52
	—	—
	32	88
	—	—

Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed	11
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment ... ... ...	—

Ante and Post Natal Clinics :—

Hoole—							
Ante-Natal ... ... ... ... ...	55	140					
Post-Natal ... ... ... ... ...	45	61					
Ellesmere Port—							
Ante-Natal ... ... ... ... ...	466	2,675					
Post-Natal ... ... ... ... ...	39	44					
	<hr/>	<hr/>					
	605	2,920					
	<hr/>	<hr/>					

Day Nurseries :—

		Daily Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
Ellesmere Port—			
Aged 0—2 years ... ... ...	10	2,472	
Aged 2—5 years ... ... ...	30	7,464	
Little Sutton—			
Aged 0—2 years ... ... ...	5	1,191	
Aged 2—5 years ... ... ...	27	6,767	

WELFARE CENTRES :—

		NEW CASES		TOTAL ATTENDANCES	
		0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5
Barrow ... ... ... (a)	26	9	127	118	
Ellesmere Port ... ... ...	394	75	4,594	922	
Farndon ... ... ... (b)	34	29	160	141	
Hoole ... ... ...	141	9	1,409	329	
Huntington... ... ...	22	4	220	117	
Kelsall ... ... ...	46	6	473	423	
Little Sutton ... ... ...	104	7	1,766	270	
Malpas ... ... ... (c)	33	5	164	97	
Saughall ... ... ...	31	7	399	151	
Upton ... ... ...	81	13	1,106	332	
Tattenhall ... ... ... (d)	32	34	212	221	
Tarvin ... ... ... (e)	22	15	94	41	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	966	213	10,724	3,162
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

- (a) Opened 2.3.49  
(b) Opened 18.1.49  
(c) Transferred 19.12.49

- (d) Opened 24.1.49  
(e) Opened 24.8.49

## SPECIAL COMMENTS.

### WELFARE CENTRES.

New Child Welfare Centres have been opened during the year at Barrow, Tarvin, Farndon, and Tattenhall, and a site has been selected by the Committee for the erection of a permanent new Welfare Centre at Little Sutton. The Malpas Welfare Centre was also transferred from the Jubilee Hall, Malpas, to the new Parish Hall.

On the 2nd May, 1949, Members of the Divisional Committee were given the opportunity of visiting Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, and other Divisional Establishments within the Division; and on the 12th July, the Welfare Sub-Committee visited the Sale Welfare Centre and Day Nursery.

The central heating system at the Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre has been repaired and overhauled. Instructions were given for a Store Room to be constructed in the Main Hall of the Centre, and also for necessary interior and exterior decorations to be carried out by the County Architect. As a result of certain complaints of offensive practices in the vicinity of the Welfare Centre, the County Architect was also requested to prepare a scheme for converting the pram shelter into a lock-up shed, and provide suitable gates and railings for the Centre.

### DAY NURSERIES.

Decorations and repairs recommended by the Divisional Committee in 1948 have not been carried out during the year, with consequent disappointment to both the Divisional Committee and the Staffs of the Nurseries.

As a result of several burglaries at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery, various precautions were taken, such as bolts on the insides of all doors and iron bars across glass sky-lights, etc. — no burglaries have taken place since the precautions were taken.

Various major items of equipment have been provided at both Nurseries, e.g., tubular steel chairs and tables, new curtains, toys, and so forth.

Owing to epidemics of Measles in one instance and Sonne Dysentery in another instance, it was necessary to close Ellesmere Port Day Nursery for two weeks in June and one week in November. As far as the Dysentery cases are concerned, there were 18 positive specimens taken from 15 children and 3 of the staff. Appropriate measures were taken to eradicate this infection, with results that appear to have been successful.

(SECTION 23).

*MIDWIVES.*

- A. Number of births :— 1,509 (Including 41 stillbirths).  
(Adjusted for inward and outward transfers).
- B. Accommodation and Maintenance :— Nothing to report.
- C. Transport :— Nothing to report.

(SECTION 25).

*HOME NURSING.*

In several cases additional new furnishings and furniture were supplied, and repairs and decorations undertaken. Supervision of the transport of District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives resulted in the replacement of old vehicles and the supply of new vehicles where necessary. The several Lady Members of the Divisional Committee, who undertook to supervise the general welfare of the District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives in these matters, have greatly helped the Committee and Staff in the maintenance of the Service.

*LOAN OF NURSING REQUISITES.*

All the District Nurses possess common items of nursing equipment, which are available on loan to patients. The Divisional Health Committee considered and sanctioned the purchase of a more comprehensive list of nursing equipment, especially larger items such as wheel chairs, bed rests, bed tables, etc., but no purchase of larger items has yet been made. In most cases these may be obtained at present from the County Council Store.

Whereas charges were not made for loans of nursing equipment prior to the 5th July, 1948, charges for rental and/or deposit in respect of equipment are now made in each case.

(SECTION 26).

*VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.*

Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough continued during the year to be performed by General Practitioners practising in the Division. Individual injections were given by Doctors to their own patients throughout the Division, and, in addition, at Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton, sessions were held at the Welfare Centres each month where local Doctors attended by rota, and inoculated groups of children, whose attendance had been secured by the active help of the Health Visitors. The General scheme suffered from the failure of agreed terms of remuneration to be made during the past year. Statistics are as follows.

A. VACCINATION.

I. Primary Vaccination :—

		Males	Females	Total
(1)	Pre-School Children ... ...	241	222	463
(2)	School Children ... ...	8	3	11
(3)	Adults ... ... ...	3	1	4
		252	226	478

II. Re-Vaccination :—

(1)	Pre-School Children ... ...	2	7	9
(2)	School Children ... ...	1	2	3
(3)	Adults ... ... ...	7	18	25
		10	27	37

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete :—

		Males	Females	Total
(1)	Pre-School Children ... ...	114	111	225
(2)	School Children ... ...	5	8	13
		119	119	238

Completed :—

(1)	Pre-School Children ... ...	401	356	757
(2)	School Children ... ...	18	11	29
		419	367	786

Re-Immunisation :—

All Children ... ... ... ...	34	24	58
------------------------------	----	----	----

C. OTHER IMMUNISATION (e.g. Whooping Cough):—

			Males	Females	Total
(1)	Pre-School Children	... ...	34	25	59
(2)	School Children	... ...	9	5	14
			43	30	73

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1949.

(SECTION 27).

*AMBULANCE SERVICES.*

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
	Number of Vehicles.	Total Number of Journeys.	Total Number of Patients Carried.	Number of Accidents and Emergency Journeys (inc. in Column 3).	Total Mileage.
A. Directly Provided—					
Ambulances ...	3	2,619	4,134	739	37,835
Cars... ... ...	2	577	1,258	33	17,283
B. By Agency—					
Ambulances ...	4	868	868	115	15,987
Cars... ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Ambulance).					
C. Supplementary—					
Ambulances ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cars... ... ...	—	1,751	2,025	21	36,438
(W.V.S. Taxi, etc.).					
D. Number of Drivers (other than Commercial) available for Supplementary Services included in "C" above .....					35

In the early part of the year arrangements were made to acquire an adequate Depot. A new Austin Ambulance arrived and a staff of two full-time permanent drivers and two attendants were appointed, in addition to the retention of the services of two part-time drivers for night and week-end duty. The Committee was now able to carry out its duties under this section with more efficiency and satisfaction. The need, how-

ever, remains for the early replacement of the two old Ambulances — both over 20 years old — by new vehicles, and so reduce the running costs and maintenance, and increase the efficiency of the Service.

Towards the middle of the year the increased use of the hire car service, i.e., taxis and W.V.S. transport, and the mounting costs for the transport of "sitting cases" caused the Committee to recommend the purchase of two cars for this transport service, together with the appointment of two drivers, and an additional attendant.

Both these cars have been in full use during the latter half of the year, and the use of hired cars has diminished accordingly.

An establishment of vehicles and personnel was fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffs Committee as follows :—

<i>Vehicles.</i>	<i>Personnel.</i>
Ambulances .....	Senior Drivers ..... 1
Sitting Case Cars .....	Ambulance Drivers ..... 2
.	Ambulance Attendants .. 3
—	Sitting Case Car Drivers 2
—	Part-Time Drivers ..... 2
	—
	10
	—

#### (SECTION 28).

### *PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE — TUBERCULOSIS.*

The formation of a Tuberculosis After-Care Sub-Committee had been deferred pending a complete assessment of the needs for Tuberculosis in the area. An investigation into all cases of Tuberculosis on the Register (some 500) was commenced during the year, and initial results showed that considerable revision was necessary to bring the Register up to date, to form an accurate picture of the number and the types of cases in the area, following the movements of population during and following the war.

The shortage of sanatoria and hospital beds, the lack of adequate housing accommodation and the prevalence of over-crowding have aggravated the problem of the Tuberculous patient.

With regard to after-care of other types of illness, better liaison with, and information from, the hospitals have increased the Committee's scope for dealing with such cases. There remains however, the need for more Convalescent Homes for the rehabilitation of cases discharged from hospital, and after illnesses at home. The problem of the aged and chronic sick is difficult, as so many of these cases require prolonged institutional treatment, especially where, as frequently happens, relatives are not available to look after them adequately at home.

A. No. of cases investigated in Division :—

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| (i) Tuberculosis             | 311. |
| (ii) Other than Tuberculosis | 6.   |

(Of these cases two were recommended for accommodation as defined by Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948; three cases were recommended for Hospital accommodation as defined by Section 79 (1) of the National Health Service Act, 1946; and one case was the subject of a Health Visitor's report, which was passed to Clatterbridge General Hospital, who in turn took appropriate action).

B. Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons' Acts) :— NIL.

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of Applicants unable to pay full amount :—

Two cases were brought to the attention of the Committee; in one case it was decided to suspend the rental and deposit charges; and in the other, that the charges remain unaltered in view of lack of information given by the applicant.

*DOMESTIC HELPS.*

In the early days of the organisation of this scheme, Domestic Helps were difficult to secure. Since then, however, as the rates of pay have been increased from 1/6d. to 2/- per hour, these services have been readily available.

They were used in the first instance mainly for confinement cases at home; but as the Scheme became more widely known, they have been used in most types of illness (with the exception of infectious diseases), and especially in chronic illnesses where help is not available in the home.

An establishment of seven whole-time Domestic Helps was fixed by the Divisional Committee; only two permanent whole-time Domestic Helps have, however, been appointed, and they are based on the Ellesmere Port Urban District, to be available mainly for confinement cases.

In the remainder of the Division it has been found more satisfactory to rely on temporary Domestic Helps. In many instances their services are not required on a whole-time basis, two or three hours daily work being sufficient for the needs of many cases of chronic illness.

As the Scheme is not a free service and charges are based on financial means, some cases who find the assessment charges high prefer to employ this help on a part-time basis, and in other cases prefer to make their own arrangements. In a number of instances the Divisional Committee has reduced the assessment charges on appeal.

Suitable applicants for service as Temporary Domestic Helps were secured by advertisement in the Press. The Health Visitors interviewed these women and compiled a list of those who appeared satisfactory, and it is from this list that the Domestic Helps are drawn. Indeed, much of the success and smooth working of the Scheme is due to the helpful co-operation of the County Health Visitors in making the necessary arrangements between patients and Domestic Helps, and in exercising supervision of their work in individual cases.

A. Number of applicants :—	155.
B. Number of Domestic Helps Working :—	
(1) Permanent	2.
(2) Temporary	76.
C. Number of cases attended :—	135.
D. Special cases for report :—	11.

Eleven cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year, and it was decided that in seven cases the contribution be suspended; in three cases the contribution was reduced, and in the remaining case the contribution was allowed to be paid in instalments.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III.

As will be seen under Section 28 above, several cases have been examined by me with a view to their admission to a Residential Establishment for Elderly Persons. In this connection I would point out that in my capacity as the County Medical Officer of Health's representative, it is part of my duty to visit Shotwick House, Great Saughall, twice each year, in order to carry out an inspection from a medical point of view. I visited Shotwick House in June and December, 1949, and on each occasion was impressed with the excellent conditions under which the old people were living, and the general atmosphere of well-being and comfort within the Establishment.

An average number of 62 aged people of both sexes are accommodated at this Hostel, and I was surprised to learn how few changes occur amongst the residents from year to year, considering their ages (14 deaths in 14 years).

### ESTIMATES.

The Annual Estimates for the year 1950/51 were presented at the December Meeting of the Committee and the following is a summary which was recommended for approval to the County Health Committee.

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation ... ... ... ... ... ...	4,121
Domestic Help Service ... ... ... ... ... ...	3,530
Ambulance Service... ... ... ... ... ...	6,388
Health propaganda... ... ... ... ... ...	50
Child Welfare Centres, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton ...	3,941
Day Nurseries, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton ... ... ...	11,414
Ante Natal Clinic, Ellesmere Port... ... ... ...	520
Home Nursing ... ... ... ... ... ...	900
Occupational Therapy ... ... ... ... ... ...	50
Convalescent Treatment for Mothers and Babies ... ...	50
Care and After Care ... ... ... ... ... ...	390
Administration ... ... ... ... ... ...	3,393
	<hr/>
	£34,747





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